AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 21, and 23.

Please **CANCEL** claim 20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A negative electrode for a lithium battery, comprising:

a lithium metal layer; and

a protective layer on the lithium metal layer, wherein the protective layer includes an organosulfur compound and an ionic conductive polymer to help facilitate transfer of lithium ions.

2. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the organosulfur compound is a thiol group-containing organosulfur compound.

3. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the organosulfur compound is a monomer, dimer, trimer, oligomer, or a polymer.

4. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the organosulfur compound is selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazole, bis(2-mercapto-ethyl)ether, N,N'-dimethyl-N,N'-dimercaptoethylene-diamine, N,N,N',N'-tetramercapto-ethylenediamine, polyethyleneimine, polyethyleneimine derivatives, 2,4,6-trimercaptotriazole,

N,N'-dimercapto-piperazine, 2,4-dimercaptopyrimidine, 1,2-ethanedithiol, bis(2-mercapto-ethyl)sulfide, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the organosulfur compound is in an amount ranging from about 50 to about 100 wt% of the protective layer.

6. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 1, wherein the protective layer further comprises an electron conductive polymer to provide electron conductivity and for facilitation of cation transfer.

7. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 6, wherein the electron conductive polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(aniline), poly(p-phenylene), poly(thiophene), poly(3-alkylthiophene), poly(3-alkoxythiophene), poly(crowneherthiophene), poly(pyrrole), poly(N-alkylpyrrole), poly(pyridine), poly(alkylpyridine), poly(2,2'-bipyridine), poly(dialkyl-2,2'-bipyridine), poly(pyrimidine), poly(dihydrophenanthrene), poly(quinoline), poly(isoquinoline), poly(1,2,3-benzothiadiazole), poly(benzimidiazole), poly(quinoxaline), poly(2,3-diarylquinoxaline), poly(1,5-naphthyridine), poly(1,3-cyclohexadiene), poly(anthraquinone), poly(Z-methylanthraquinone), poly(ferrocene), and poly(6,6'-biquinoline).

8. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 6, wherein the electron conductive polymer is an emeraldine base polymer.

9. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 6, wherein the electron conductive polymer is a doped polymer.

10. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being selected from the group consisting of a halogen, a Lewis acid, a proton acid, a transition metal compound, an electrolytic anion, a sulfonic acid, O_2, $XeOF_4(NO_2^+)(SbF_6^-)$, $(NO_2^+)(SbCl_6^-)$, $(NO_2^+)(BF_4^-)$, FSO_2OOSO_2F, $AgClO_4$, H_2IrCl_6, and $La(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$.

11. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being a halogen selected from the group consisting of Cl_2, Br_2, I_2, ICl, ICl_3, IBr, and IF.

12. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being a Lewis acid selected from the group consisting of PF_5, AsF_5, SbF_5, BF_3, BCl_3, BBr_3, and SO_3.

13. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being a proton acid selected from the group consisting of HF, HCl, HNO_3, H_2SO_4, $HClO_4$, FSO_3H, $ClSO_3H$, CF_3SO_3H, and an amino acid.

14. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being a transition metal compound selected from the group consisting of $FeCl_3$, FeOCl, $TiCl_4$, $ZrCl_4$, $HFCl_4$, NbF_5, $NbCl_5$, $TaCl_5$, MoF_5, WF_6, WCl_6, UF_6, and $LnCl_3$ (Ln=lanthanoide)

15. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being an electrolytic anion selected from the group consisting of Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, Cl_4^-, PF_6^-, AsF_6^-, SbF_6^-, and BF_4.

16. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being a sulfonic acid having the formula $R\text{-}SO_3H$, where R is selected from the group consisting of a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl, a C_6 to C_{12} aryl, and an aralkyl group.

17. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 9, wherein the doped polymer is prepared by reaction with a doping material, the doping material being selected from the group consisting of doceyl benzene sulfonic acid, p-toluene sulfonic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, and octylbenzene sulfonic acid.

18. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 6, wherein the electron conductive polymer is a polymer having a doping ratio of at least about 30%.

19. (Previously Presented) The negative electrode of claim 6, wherein the electron conductive polymer is added in the protective layer in an amount of about 40 wt% or less of the protective layer.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The negative electrode of claim ~~20~~1, wherein the ionic conductive polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethyleneoxide),

poly(propyleneoxide), poly(ethylenesuccinate), poly(ethyleneadipate), poly(ethyleneimine), poly(epichlorohydrin), poly(β-propiolactone), poly(N-propylaziridine), poly(alkylenesulphide) where the alkylene is a C_2 to C_6 aliphatic hydrocarbon, poly(ethyleneglycoldiacrylate), poly(prophyleneglycoldiacrylate), poly(ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate), and poly(prophyleneglycoldimethacrylate).

22. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 21, wherein the ionic conductive polymer has a weight average molecular weight ranging from about 10,000 to about 600,000.

23. (Currently Amended) The negative electrode of claim ~~20~~1, wherein the ionic conductive polymer is added in the protective layer at an amount of about 30 wt% or less.

24. (Original) A negative electrode for a lithium battery, comprising:

a lithium metal layer; and

a protective layer on the lithium metal layer, wherein the protective layer includes an organosulfur compound, an electron conductive polymer, and an ionic conductive polymer.

25. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 24, wherein the protective layer comprises the organosulfur compound in an amount ranging from about 50 to about 70 wt%, the electron conductive polymer in an amount ranging from about 20 to about 40 wt%, and the ionic conductive polymer in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 30 wt% of the protective layer.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating a negative electrode for a lithium battery, the method comprising the steps of:

adding an organosulfur compound to a solvent to prepare a slurry; and

coating the slurry on lithium metal to form an organosulfur compound-containing layer.

27. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 26 further comprising the step of adding an electron conductive polymer and an ionic conductive polymer to the solvent.

28. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 27, wherein the electron conductive polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(aniline), poly(p-phenylene), poly(thiophene), poly(3-alkylthiophene), poly(3-alkoxythiophene), poly(crowneherthiophene), poly(pyrrole), poly(N-alkylpyrrole), poly(pyridine), poly(alkylpyridine), poly(2,2'-bipyridine), poly(dialkyl-2,2'-bipyridine), poly(pyrimidine), poly(dihydrophenanthrene), poly(quinoline), poly(isoquinoline), poly(1,2,3-benzothiadiazole), poly(benzimidiazole), poly(quinoxaline), poly(2,3-diarylquinoxaline), poly(1,5-naphthyridine), poly(1,3-cyclohexadiene), poly(anthraquinone), poly(Z-methylanthraquinone), poly(ferrocene), and poly(6,6'-biquinoline).

29. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 27, wherein the ionic conductive polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethyleneoxide), poly(propyleneoxide), poly(ethylenesuccinate), poly(ethyleneadipate), poly(ethyleneimine), poly(epichlorohydrin), poly(β-propiolactone), poly(N-propylaziridine), poly(alkylenesulphide) poly(ethyleneglycoldiacrylate), poly(prophyleneglycoldiacrylate), poly(ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate), and poly(prophyleneglycoldimethacrylate).

30. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 27 further comprising the step of adding a cross-linking initiator selected from the group consisting of diacyl peroxide dialkyl, peroxide peroxy ester, tertiary alkyl hydroperoxide, peroxy ketal,

peroxydicarbonate, and an azo compound where the ionic conductive polymer is an acrylate-based polymer.

31. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 27, further comprising the step of adding a cross-linking initiator selected from the group consisting of dibenzoyl peroxide, succinic acid peroxide, dilauroyl peroxide, didecanoyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di-(t-butylperoxy)hexane, α-cumyl peroxy neodecanoate, 1,1-dimethyl-3-hydroxybutyl peroxy-2-ethyl hexanoate, t-amylperoxy benzoate, t-butyl peroxy pivalate, 2,5-dihydroperoxy-2,5 -dimethylhexane, cumene hydroperoxide, t-butyl hydroperoxide, 1,1-di-(t-amylperoxy)- cyclohexane, 2,2-di-(t-butyl peroxy)butane, ethyl 3,3-di-(t-butylperoxy)-butylate, di(n-propyl) peroxy-dicarbonate, di(sec-butyl) peroxy- dicarbonate, di(2-ethyl hexyl)peroxy-dicarbonate, and azobis isobutyronitrile.

32. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 27, wherein the ionic conductive polymer is an acrylate-based polymer, and wherein the slurry further comprises a cross-linking facilitator.

33. (Withdrawn) The method for fabricating a negative electrode of claim 32, wherein the cross-linking facilitator is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, tributylamine, riethanol amine, and N-benzyldimethyl amine.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating a negative electrode for a lithium battery, comprising the steps of:

adding an organosulfur compound to a positive electrode; and

performing at least one charge and discharge cycle for the battery having a negative electrode, thereby forming a protective layer on a negative.

35. (Withdrawn) A lithium battery, comprising

a positive electrode including a positive active material selected from the group consisting of a lithium-containing metal oxide, a lithium-containing calcogenide, a sulfur-based material, and a conductive polymer;

a negative electrode comprising a lithium metal layer, and a protective layer on the lithium metal layer, wherein the protective layer includes an organosulfur compound; and

an electrolyte between the positive and negative electrodes.

36. (Withdrawn) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the lithium battery is a lithium primary battery.

37. (Withdrawn) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the lithium battery is a lithium secondary battery.

38. (Withdrawn) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the electrolyte comprises a mixed organic solvent of 1,3-dioxolane, diglyme, sulforane, and dimethoxyethane.